As one of only 28 public universities with academic medical centers to be designated by the Carnegie Foundation as “Community Engaged” with “Highest Research Activity,” Virginia Commonwealth University is taking its place among the nation’s premier urban, public research universities.

VCU received $310 million in externally funded sponsored awards in fiscal year 2019. VCU graduate programs and first professional programs are consistently ranked among the top 50 nationally by U.S. News & World Report, including the No. 1 sculpture and nurse anesthesia programs. And through the guidance of its strategic plan, Quest 2025, VCU is working to meet the demands of diverse populations through impactful research and creativity, rigorous study and extensive community engagement.

The university traces its roots to two institutions that merged in 1968 to create VCU: the Medical College of Virginia, established in 1838 as the medical department of Hampden-Sydney College, and Richmond Professional Institute, founded in 1917.

Today, VCU enrolls more than 31,000 students in more than 200 degree and certificate programs and encompasses one of the largest academic health centers in the nation, VCU Health, where the VCU Medical Center was named the No. 1 hospital in the Richmond region by U.S. News & World Report.

VCU and VCU Health have been honored with prestigious national and international recognition for top-quality graduate, professional and medical care programs, reflecting a commitment to be among America’s top research universities, supporting students, faculty and the VCU community to make it real.
Mission statement
As a premier urban, public research university in Virginia, VCU's mission is to advance knowledge and student success through its commitments to:
• An engaged, learner-centered environment that fosters inquiry, discovery and innovation in a global setting
• Research that expands the boundaries of new knowledge and creative expression and promotes translational applications to improve human health
• Interdisciplinary collaborations that bring new perspectives to complex problems and mobilize creative energies that advance innovation and solve global challenges
• Health care that strives to preserve and restore health for all people, to seek the cause and cure of diseases through groundbreaking research, and to educate those who serve humanity
• Diversity that provides a climate of inclusion, a dedication to addressing disparities wherever they exist and an opportunity to explore and create in an environment of trust
• Sustainable, university-community partnerships that enhance the educational, economic and cultural vitality of the communities VCU serves in Virginia and around the world

Vision statement
VCU will be a premier, urban public research university distinguished by its commitment to:
• The intellectual and academic success of a diverse student body
• Research and discovery that advances knowledge, inspires creativity and improves human health
• The global engagement of students, faculty and staff that transforms lives and communities

Over enrolls, Fall 2019-20
- Honors students enrolled
- Transfers enrolled
- VCU total

Demographics of full-time employees

Gender
- Male
- Female

Race/Ethnicity
- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latino
- American Indian/Alaskan
- Asian
- Two or more races

Institutional faculty
- Tenure status
- Tenured
- Non-tenure

Physical capacity
- The 88.7-acre Monroe Park Campus is located in Richmond’s Fan District, and the 70.5-acre VCU Medical Campus is adjacent to the State Capitol. The university also owns another 582 acres, located in Hanover and Charles City counties.
- VCU occupies 271 buildings. (Of the university’s owned buildings, 48 were built prior to 1900.
- The estimated capital replacement cost is $4.2 billion.
- The residence hall capacity is 6,234 students for academic year 2019-20.

VCU Libraries
- More than 2.2 million people visit VCU’s libraries each year.
- The libraries provide access to 500 licensed databases and thousands of journals.
- More than 3 million volumes, including more than 1 million ebooks.
- The libraries have over 50,000 locally digitized items from its collections that are freely available online.